

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY YOUTH ASSESSMENT CENTER (YAC) MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2004
4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: County Commissioners Ray Stevens, Larry Hudkins, Bernie Heier, Bob Workman and Deb Schorr; Michelle Schindler, Youth Assessment Center (YAC) Interim Director; Lisa Christensen, YAC/Child Guidance Center; Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator; Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director; Henry Moss and Judy Foote, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center; Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Joseph Wright, Lincoln Police Department; Renee' Dozier, Families First & Foremost (F³) Associate Director; Nyla Helge and Sharon Dalrymple, F³; Dennis Keefe, Public Defender; Kristy Mundt, Deputy County Attorney; Bev Hoagland, Juvenile Probation Office; Ann Hobbs, Juvenile Justice Coordinator; Corey Steele, Juvenile Detention Expediter; Pat Sailors, Child Guidance Center; Maria Lavicky, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Jim Blue, Cedars Youth Services Executive Director; Petra Smith, Cedars Youth Services; Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

FACILITATORS: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

1) CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Michelle Schindler, Youth Assessment Center (YAC) Interim Director, gave an overview of current functions. Four primary functions were identified: 1) Single point of entry into the system; 2) Provide immediate and comprehensive assessments; 3) Integrated case management in conjunction with others; and 4) Management Information System (MIS).

2) POPULATION & SERVICES

Roundtable discussion took place with the following suggestions:

- Virtual single point of entry
- Prevention prior to law offense
- Eliminate "cruiser therapy" by allowing youth at risk to access YAC
- Families First & Foremost (F³) involvement

- Provide a three-pronged approach: 1) YAC would continue to work with the juvenile justice population; 2) A pilot project in the schools to provide immediate needs response for kids with behavioral health problems in the school system; and 3) A community-based assessment center to provide crisis response for families and youth who are not in the juvenile justice system
- Have the County continue to fund F³ to facilitate the community-based process
- Use non-profit agencies to provide services to an expanded population
- Continue to provide the same services to the current population (screening and a safety plan, followed by a full-blown evaluation) and provide preliminary screening and referrals for youth that are brought into YAC but don't fit the population
- Limit YAC's population to the ages of 12-17
- Try to draw down Medicaid funds to support crisis response for youth
- Partner with the State to apply cost savings from the Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) contract to benefit youth in Lancaster County and prevent State wardship

The following concerns were also noted:

- "Widening the net" will expand the number of youth in custody and will open YAC up to parents dropping youth off
- No screenings administered to runaways and not enough information about their psychological stability (screenings are implemented on a voluntary basis)
- Duplication of services and protocols
- Overloading YAC
- YAC is only serving a tenth of the juvenile justice population and could be serving its population better and more efficiently

A Youth Assessment Center (YAC) Survey was also distributed (Exhibit A). Responses are requested within two weeks.

3) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.